

Tonight, friends, family, colleagues, and community members will gather to salute the many accomplishments of Miguel Laguna as he retires from his position as Executive Director of Crossroads. It is both an honor and a privilege for me to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for his many contributions to the City of New Haven and send my best wishes for continued health and happiness as he enjoys his retirement.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2000

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2000*

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, "Volunteerism," as defined by the American Heritage Dictionary—"To give or offer to give on one's own initiative." The time has come for Congress to recognize the lasting contribution of volunteerism in America by passing the National and Community Service Amendments Act of 2000. This bill reauthorizes the national service programs administered or funded by the Corporation for National Service, including AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, the National Senior Service Corps, Learn and Serve America, and the Points of Light Foundation. These public-private partnerships are transforming our communities and successfully challenging our citizenry to make something greater of themselves.

As communities and as a nation we are stronger and healthier because of the volunteers the Corporation for National Service provides. They tackle problems like illiteracy, crime, and poverty while instilling a commitment to public service in Americans of all ages, in every community nationwide. Our society works precisely because lots of folks are out there are helping other folks in many different ways. In fact, we have a social contract to help each other.

In this country, we have young people in need of basic reading and writing skills, we have teenagers in need of mentors and role models, we have home-bound seniors in need of food and companionship, we have families in need of homes, and we have communities in need of disaster assistance. Solutions to these problems can best be found when individuals, families, and communities come together in service to their neighbors and fellow citizens. We can make a difference, but volunteers are critical to finding these solutions and touching these lives.

That's where the Corporation for National Service comes in. National Service volunteers fill these needs by providing the essential people power at the local level. In my own state of California, we have more than 145,000 people of all ages and backgrounds working in 289 national service projects. Nationwide, more than 40,000 Americans served in AmeriCorps in 1998-99, bringing the total number of current and former members to more than 100,000.

They have taught, tutored, and mentored more than 2.6 million children, served 564,000 at-risk youth in after school programs, operated 40,500 safety patrols, rehabilitated 25,180 homes, aided more than 2.4 million

homeless individuals, and immunized 419,000 people. And, they have accomplished all this while generating \$1.66 in benefits for each \$1.00 spent.

Volunteers also have a profound impact on the communities they work in by embodying the values of public service for all. Studies have found that people are more likely to volunteer if they know someone who volunteers regularly or were involved as a youth in an organization using volunteers. AmeriCorps members generate an average of 12 additional volunteers around the nation! Not only are they helping our communities, they are setting an example for others to follow.

It's time we reclaimed the bipartisan tradition of support of national service that has long been the hallmark of American politics. Members of Congress now have a unique opportunity to separate policy from politics and reach a bipartisan consensus on the value of our national service programs. At this time of great concern about the future of our youth, it's essential that as many as possible be called upon to do something more challenging and rewarding—service to their fellow citizens. Support for the Corporation for National Service will build a stronger nation and ensure a brighter future for us all.

HONORING MISS NOELLE SCHILLER, DISTRICT WINNER OF RESPECTEEN SPEAK FOR YOURSELF AWARD

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2000*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Miss Noelle Schiller, an outstanding young student and District Winner of this year's RespecTeen Speak for Yourself Award. RespecTeen's program encouraged students to write a letter to their Representative in Congress. Miss Schiller is an eighth grade student at Millbrook Junior/Senior High School in Upstate New York. Her award-winning letter compassionately outlined the problem and detailed her selfless action concerning homeless children in our nation.

Miss Schiller's letter described the way she personally assisted homeless children in America. Through a church sponsored program, Noelle collected items which would be of use to homeless children. Her words speak best to the impact of these small gifts: "The articles seemed like so little, but to these children they mean so much." As a member of the United States House of Representatives Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee, I share Noelle's desire to find safe and affordable housing for all. I applaud her leadership in this noble cause.

I commend Miss Schiller's interest and enthusiasm in addressing one of this country's most serious issues. RespecTeen's Speak for Yourself program encourages students like Noelle to learn more about America's government. The purpose of the letter writing project was to learn more about our democratic system of government and encourage young people to interact with government officials. The program obviously had a positive impact on Noelle and provided her first hand experience of our democratic process.

Noelle and her parents, Katherine and James, reside in Salt Point, New York, within the 22nd Congressional District. In honor of her superior achievement, RespecTeen awarded Miss Schiller a United States Savings Bond. Noelle is an intelligent young student who deserves high praise.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Noelle Schiller on her receipt of the RespecTeen Speak for Yourself Award. Also, please join me in wishing her the very best of luck in all her future endeavors.

REMEMBERING THE KOREAN WAR

**HON. KAREN MCCARTHY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 23, 2000*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I join my constituents in the Fifth District of Missouri in remembrance and in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Korean war. On June 25, 1950 North Korea attacked South Korea. An emergency session was called by the United Nations Security Council resulting in 22 nations joining forces in the first United Nations initiative to preserve peace and harmony. President Truman sent our troops to Korea as part of that United Nations peace keeping effort to preserve democracy and repel communism.

This nation must always be cognizant of the message stated on the 50th Anniversary Korean War Commemorative Flag "Freedom Is Not Free". We welcome home every Korean veteran and salute their valiant efforts on our Nation's behalf I rise today to remember and honor the 54,268 United States military who tied in the Korean conflict. We must never forget that 8,207 are missing in action, and only 3,450 returned of the 7,000 prisoners taken.

Let us pray for prisoners of war and those missing in action. We must continue to seek information about missing soldiers and provide families with long awaited news and closure to years of unanswered questions. This nation must always remember and be appreciative of our brave sons and daughters who answer the call. Today our military stationed in South Korea continue to stand ready and vigilant. I salute them for their valiant service.

In January I had the opportunity to travel to South Korea and visit the Korea Demilitarized Zone. During my journey I learned a great deal about the importance of a continued U.S. role in the region. The trip was a very real reminder that peace and stability still elude us.

This month the world witnessed the first Korean Summit, a historical meeting for a region divided since 1945. South Korea's President Kim Dae-jung traveled to North Korea and met with Kim Jon 71, leader of North Korea. The talks resulted in a signed agreement, initiating steps for reunification. As the world watches with cautious optimism we hope for a long-term relationship that will bring peace and stability. While today Secretary of State Madeleine Albright announced United States troops will remain in South Korea indefinitely despite the improved relations in the region, we wait for the day when we can bring our United States soldiers home to their families.

Thank you to all the Korean veterans, their families and those who continue to serve.